



## Short Safety Subject

Short Safety Subjects are provided by the Public Safety Business Center, Fort Bragg, NC. Our intent is to provide safety topics for the purpose of increasing safety awareness and improving safety performance. Additional Short Safety Subjects are available on the PSBC Business Management Web Site at:

[www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/psbc-bm/PubsAndForms/ShortSafetySubjects.htm)

### Hydroplaning Facts



Hydroplaning may occur when you are driving your car on a wet highway, and water penetrates between the tire and the pavement. This penetration results in the formation of water pressure which raises a portion of the tire off the pavement.

This pressure increases with increasing speed of the vehicle, supporting more and more of the tire, until at a critical speed, termed the hydroplaning speed, the tire supported only by the water, and loses all contact with the pavement.

The most serious consequences of tire hydroplaning is the loss of traction which is necessary for safe steering and braking. This may be a partial loss of traction due to partial hydroplaning, or total loss of traction at total hydroplaning speeds.

#### *What can you do about tire hydroplaning?*

1. SLOW DOWN when the roads are wet. A wet road may be just as slippery as an icy road; all traction is LOST at hydroplaning speeds.
2. Be alert for STANDING WATER or puddles, especially ON CURVES.
3. Keep GOOD TIRES on your car, and keep them PROPERLY INFLATED.
4. Increase FOLLOWING DISTANCES go give yourself more time and distance to stop or control your car.
5. Be alert for SIDE WINDS which can affect vehicle control.
6. Adjust your speed to ROAD CONDITIONS, and remember that hydroplaning CAN occur well BELOW posted speed limits.